

Young had little money and even less support from the establishment. But his insistent call for an end to police brutality resonated among both blacks and whites who chafed under an occupying army of hostile police. He won the race and became the first black mayor in the city's history.

Young took the reins of a battered and nearly bankrupt city. The 1974 Oil Embargo nearly decimated Detroit car makers, and the city shuddered from a mass exodus of businesses and population. During his 20-year tenure, he integrated the Detroit Police Department despite strident protests from the police officer's union, established a national recognized community crime prevention program and brought the city through its financial crisis by forging alliances with political, business, union, community and religious leaders. Because of Young's success, Henry Ford II described him as "A damn good business manager."

Young led the effort to modernize Detroit auto plants and to keep major businesses in the city. During his tenure, the Renaissance Center opened, the city became a site on the Grand Prix circuit, Detroit saw the construction of its first single family subdivision in decades, and the long-neglected river front began to blossom with parks and residential developments.

Mayor Young gave economic opportunity to record numbers of black, Hispanic and female business owners. He brought blacks and women into government by appointing them to his staff and to head city departments. He appointed blacks and whites on a "50-50" basis.

During his lifetime, Young was a past president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and served on the Democratic National Committee and the National Conference of Democratic Mayors. He was the recipient of the prestigious Jefferson Award from the American Institute for Public Service and the NAACP's coveted Springarn medal for distinguished achievement. In addition the Congressional Black Caucus honored him with its Adam Clayton Powell Award for outstanding political leadership. A Congressional Black Caucus tribute to Mayor Young is included at the end of these remarks.

Mayor Young decided against running for office a sixth time because of ill health. In his later years, he taught at Wayne State University which has an endowed chair in urban affairs named for him. He also concentrated his attention on a foundation he established to give college scholarships to needy youngsters.

His survivors include a son, Coleman Young Jr., two sisters, Bernice Grier and Juanita Clark, and his companion, Barbara Parker.

As I said during his funeral service, Coleman Young's leadership and courage informed me and every other black politician who stands for anything in Michigan. The only way to honor his memory is to keep his struggle alive.

TRIBUTE TO MEL WILSON

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mel Wilson, who has served as

the President of the Southland Regional Association of Realtors.

Mel Wilson has worked diligently this past year to enhance the reputation of the Association. It is regarded as one of the preeminent associations of the real estate business as a result of his efforts.

The Association has improved and expanded member services and has enabled all members to successfully pursue the real estate business. Mel has worked to ensure the Association's reputation as a leader in technology has been maintained, an effort which resulted in the development of an award-winning Internet site. The importance of technology, especially in this day and age, is evident to Mel.

A testament to Mel's strength of character and desire to improve our community is exemplified through his actions as the President of this Association. Under his leadership, the Association has continued to play an active role in the community.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Mel Wilson. He is a role model for the citizens of Los Angeles.

A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: RUBY NOTTAGE

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Ruby Nottage was a Point-Of-Light for Brooklyn and for all urban communities struggling for empowerment. She was a point of light for all Americans. She was a totally unique creation, a magnificent fabric woven from both the rough strands of the street and the well refined strings of mankind's highest cultural aspirations. Ruby Nottage could walk with kings, after all, and never lose the common touch because Ruby Nottage was born a natural queen.

At a time when education has assumed its rightful place on our national agenda it is important to first note that Ruby Nottage was a teacher. She enjoyed a 30-year career in the New York City public school system as a teacher; assistant principal and as principal of P.S. 93 in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Ms. Nottage also proudly served as a Member of the Board, president and trustee of the Brooklyn YWCA for 15 years. She was appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo to the New York State Martin Luther King Commission, and also served as Political Planning Chair of the Brooklyn Women's Political Caucus. She was also a member of the Community Advisory Board for Medgar Evers College. Ms. Nottage was one of the founders of an independent Democratic Club: Partners for Progress. She was also a founding member of the Brooklyn Coalition for Community Empowerment. In 1984, she was elected Democratic District Leader of the 57th Assembly District. Ruby Nottage was also recognized as 1996 Woman of the Year by Brooklyn Links, Inc.

Ruby was as much at home with a political party nominating petition in her hand as she was reviewing a fine work of art. She could prepare and appreciate the finest cuisine. But if a late session at the Board of Elections re-

quired that she eat cold fast food she had no complaints. She had "class" in the best sense of the word. She would do nothing in a sloppy way. To every action and activity of her life she applied high standards. Ruby was a glowing example of how a royal style can bloom within the context of American grassroots democracy.

My remembrances of Ruby are slightly different from most of her other admirers. I didn't have the delight and the pleasure of growing up with Ruby; of going to school with her; or of working with her as a colleague during her 30 years in the NYC school system. Ruby was a member of a rare species, the native New Yorker, born and raised here. She didn't come like many of us from Tennessee or Texas or Jamaica or Panama or New Jersey. She was a daughter of New York City—of Brownstones, subways, and skyscrapers.

Since I was not fortunate enough to grow up knowing Ruby I had to discover her. What her close friends may take for granted I have had to observe with a sense of wonder and awe. She was a Renaissance woman with a broad range of interests. She reached out for the whole spectrum of experience, the pleasant and the difficult, the same sensitivity and intellect that she brought into a theater or an art gallery she carried into the dirt and grime of partisan politics. She brought the same passion to a discussion of the transition of the Brooklyn political machine that she brought to the merger of modern painting concepts with African diaspora subject matter and contents.

It was as late as 1982 that I first discovered Ruby Nottage. She was a founding member of the Brooklyn Coalition for Community Empowerment. We later shared the euphoria of the Jesse Jackson bid for the Presidency and the David Dinkins mayoral victory. We also shared more than a few excruciating disappointments in the arena of politics. Throughout some very intense group soul searching and heated debates Ruby never lost the nobility in her demeanor. She was always the teacher who used exemplary English and offered clarity and logic to keep the deliberations on track.

We all appreciated very much Ruby's dedication to the cause of community empowerment. On one occasion following a very discouraging meeting she pulled me aside and pointing a finger in my face, whispered: "You know, Major, you are one of the few people who have continued to believe in group decision-making and real community empowerment after you got elected."

I have a vivid recollection of that compliment. Her words were like a Congressional Medal of Honor. When you are in the political trenches surrounded by sell-outs and cynicism there are few things as inspiring as recognition and understanding from a respected fellow worker.

It was an honor to receive praise from Ruby because she had no hidden political agenda. She was the most unselfish District Leader in America. Politics added nothing to her life except headaches and challenges. It was by choice, not need, that she accepted the challenges and became the District Leader for the 57th Assembly District. By choice this Renaissance Lady had woven a life for herself that was unique. Where else could you find the combination of school principal and District Leader? Along with her husband, Wally, and the rest of the family, Ruby created a combination Brownstone palace and art gallery on